

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to commend Joe Alvin Sexton for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joe Alvin Sexton is one such commendable citizen who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sexton has, for many years, been a prominent and highly influential figure in the social and civic lives of the good people of Morgan County, distinguishing himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, the son of Reverend Ira Sexton and Betty Landrum Sexton, Joe Sexton graduated from Sunbright High School in 1961 and married Novena Joyce Payne in 1963; and

WHEREAS, from 1961 to 2008, Mr. Sexton owned and operated several retail service stations and convenience store businesses; his dedication to providing outstanding customer service was evident in every facility he operated throughout the six-county region he served; and

WHEREAS, from 1969 to 1982, he dealt in wholesaling gasoline and fuel oils through Sexton Oil Company and Spur Distributors; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Murphy Oil Company, Spur's parent company, recognized Sexton Oil Company as one of its largest independently-owned Spur Distributors; and

WHEREAS, for all his success in commerce and trade, Joe Sexton truly hit his stride as an entrepreneur with the founding of Quality Home Builders, Inc., in 1982; and

WHEREAS, one of the first licensed contractors in Morgan County, he has built more than 100 contract turn-key homes in the county and is proud of having designed and built

several new church buildings, including the new Pilot Mountain Missionary Baptist Church, Coalfield Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Oak Grove Baptist Church, in addition to remodeling a number of church auditoriums; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges of citizenship, Joe Sexton helped organize and was the first fire chief of Sunbright Area Volunteer Fire Department, where he served for nine years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sexton donated the building to house the first fire hall, helped obtain funding and grants for equipment and the construction of a new fire hall, and played a key role in the fire department's achieving an outstanding I.S.O. rating of No. 7; and

WHEREAS, he has also rendered astute service as a member of many civic, professional, and governmental organizations, including serving as a board member of the Sunbright Utility District from 1988 to 1992 and the Morgan County Industrial Board from 1987 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Sexton stood as Director of the Board of Sunbright Bank and Trust Company from 1977 to 1978, and Director of the Board of Highland Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated from 1992 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, he is also a 32nd Degree Mason, Scottish Right Mason, and a 46-year member of New Faith Lodge #768 Free and Accepted Mason in Sunbright; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sexton is a lifelong member of Pilot Mountain Missionary Baptist Church, where he has faithfully served for 34 years as a Deacon and presently serves as Trustee Chairman of the Deacon Board, Assistant Adult teacher, and custodian in charge of maintenance; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, Joe Sexton epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Joe Sexton is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of forty-six years, Novena, and their four children and their spouses, Tammy and Mike Davis, Darlene and Jerry Wallace, Tisha and Donald Jones, and Joe Sexton II and Stephanie Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Joe and Novena Sexton are also the devoted grandparents of Zachary and Ethan Davis; Kayla and Cody Wallace; Andrea, Wesley and Emily Clark; and Madison, Lydia, and Grant Sexton; and

WHEREAS, Joe Sexton is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Joe Alvin Sexton for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Morgan County and the State of Tennessee and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.